

## SOME RESULTS

Of The International Irrigation Congress.

"No man in the country so big, but what he would feel honored by being elected president of this Congress." These were the words uttered to the writer by C. B. Booth of Los Angeles after the election for the ensuing term of Governor Pardee of California. The very efficient chairman of this epochmaking congress was right. No man, inclusive the present president of the United States itself, were he at liberty, would refuse such an opportunity for benefiting his nation at large and his fellow citizens as is granted the right kind of a man in that position. Indeed Theodore Roosevelt may be credited with illuminating that specific subject of statesmanship, as he has so many others in such a manner that literally even if a man 'runs, he may read.' In fact, it would appear that all our 'time saving appliances' have been so astoundingly successful that only that which can be read while we 'run' is read at all. But it has actually come to pass in spite of the fact that all irrigation advocates in the East, and in great portions of the West itself, especially the West of the "Cattle Kings," up till ten years ago were considered a cross between a monkey and a prehistoric peregrine. These same unclassifiable 'cranks' are now treated with respect: their annual gatherings are being competed for between each of the wideawake cities from the Missouri to the Pacific. So highly esteemed have the irrigationists grown that a city famed in song and story for its superabundance of water from the heavens above and the earth beneath and around it, namely Portland, Oregon, sent to El Paso an exceedingly able delegation and one of its most famous orators, who pleaded the cause of irrigation for the Willamete valley so masterly that there was no gainsaying his plea.

The Irrigation Congress goes to Portland next year without fail, though we were warned by the mayor of Boise City, Idaho, that our principal requirement for a sojourn there would be 'gumboots.' To the old-time Western man, who has seen this movement pass every stage of ridicule and opposition, legalized obstruction, public indifference, etc., there is some compensation in witnessing its triumphant success. Governor Pardee proved a model presiding officer. He is a most unique compound. His presence embodies at once the winning traits of a high class, scholarly gentleman of transparent good will. He wears a black 'Prince Albert,' a spotless white tie; his smile is invisible benevolence in action—but his ruling from the Chair brooks no appeal, and in fact none was asked for. In all the intricacies of what, or what not of the 'previous question' he proved himself past master of every parliamentary procedure. It was a decided stroke of good luck for the convention to obtain such a leader for its international

'four in hand.' There were nearly fifty delegates from Mexico watching our deliberations, and one very intelligent looking delegate from the Nile Delta ("Mother of Irrigation") Thanks largely to an unflinchable chair, with a velvety softness beneath which were concealed steel nerves, we were saved from "running amuck." Actual accomplishment was the order of the day and from this duty there was no escape. It was a gathering bent on achieving some definite result for public welfare and it was attained. The resolutions unanimously adopted endorsing the Elephant Butte damsite one hundred miles above El Paso, near Eagle Station on the Santa Fe road, constitutes a milestone of signal and historic character. The entire Southwest, especially the international boundary of either side from the Rio Grande to the Colorado, can and should rejoice in the solution thus obtained. The total destruction of ancient water rights on the Mexican side guaranteed to Mexico under two successive, solemn treaties, the Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848 and the Gadsden of 1853, have not merely been violated, but for all practical purposes so far as their provisions for sacredly guarding the rights of Mexican citizens in the Rio Grande valley, these treaties had become a farce. But not to the sufferers—to them it was tragedy, with a capital S. Then came the effort on the part of United States citizens, mainly of El Paso, to construct an International dam near their city, which should conserve waters for all concerned. This was unanimously opposed by New Mexico. So we had a problem involving the the United States in New Mexico and Texas, and thousands of citizens of Old Mexico. The full story of it would comprise a volume by itself. But here is what happened, and a prouder day for the Irrigation Congress and its educational work never transpired; nor was there ever an occasion where so much was accomplished for the mutual good will between the citizens resident of the International border.

Remember first, that the following resolution covers one of the most complicated situations existing between the two republics since the days of the Alamo of Antonio. Secondly that lawyers, politicians, legislators, diplomats, business men involving whole communities have wrestled with this subject for all of twenty years and found no solution. But here comes the "still small voice" of impartial science operating under the beneficent provision of the National Irrigation Act, saying a dam of this dimension forty miles in length, foundations laid to bedrock through the river bed, a hundred feet deep and a given elevation above, costing six million and a half dollars will solve your difficulty. And behold the miracle. No politics, no real estate speculation, not sectional but international welfare, of equal benefit to all concerned! The delegates seeing what was possible, literally leaped up from their seats in their rejoicing.

Twenty million dollars damage

suits from the impoverished Mexican citizens will be relinquished through the construction of this dam. But the good will and the lands restored to normal fertility will make the completed dam worth a hundred million dollars the very first year it is opened. Nor is this sort of storage work on the part of the United States government an experiment. The writer has personally visited the very creditable diversion dams erected by the United States government on the headwaters of the Mississippi. Their object is to conserve the flood waters of the mighty river when it is at its height in early spring. As the summer advances the navigable division between Saint Louis runs 'low'. Then the waters are let out and in less than a week's time, the level is raised from unnavigable to the opposite and maintained at this all summer. This is in behalf of the steamboat traffic. On the Rio Grande there are only irrigation interests but as we have seen they reach very far. All aspects of the case were duly considered. The Mexican delegates proved themselves fully alive to what was going on. They were headed by such men as Governor Creel of Chihuahua, Governor Ahumada of Jalisco, Inocente Ochoa, president of the Banco Minero.

El Paso, Tex., Nov. 18, 1904.

The undersigned Mexican delegates to the Irrigation Congress, have had no time to make a comparison of the two projects to store the waters of the Rio Grande, the International dam project and the Elephant Butte dam project, but assume, for actual purposes, that the data given by Mr. Hall in his report read yesterday at convention hall in regard to flow, sediment, evaporation, distances to bed rock, etc., are correct and that it is thoroughly practicable to bring to the site of the old Mexican dam, above El Paso, the water necessary for the areas that were previously irrigated, and that said quality of water will be given to Mexico, without cost, at that point. surveys to be made by the engineers of the United States reclamation service to determine the number of acres upon the Mexican side of the Rio Grande which can be so irrigated, and surveys to be subject to the approval of the Mexican government.

Under those considerations, the Mexican delegation endorses the Elephant Butte dam project, as explained by Mr. Hall, said endorsement to be subject to the approval of the Mexican government, as the delegates have no instructions whatever, as stated yesterday at convention hall by the delegate from Tlaxcala, Sr. Carranza.

Jacobo Blanco,  
Roberto Gayol,  
Jose Duvalon,  
Ynacio Carranza,  
Rafael de la Mora.

We, the undersigned committee, representing the American side of the Rio Grande valley, heartily and unanimously endorse the above statement and presentations, made by the honorable delegation representing the Mexican republic, and through them, the Mexican

side of the Rio Grande valley, subject to the approval of the United States government.

Felix Martinez,  
A. P. Coles,  
Z. T. White,  
A. Courchesne,  
J. A. Smith,  
Oscar C. Snow,  
H. B. Holt,  
Wm. Palmer, Jr.,  
R. E. Twitchell,  
Martin Lohman.

The above signers were members of a special committee selected to frame the resolutions, approving the remarkable report submitted by Mr. M. Hall, U. S. hydrographic engineer, who has made the Rio Grande river a life study. Mr. Newell, Chief of the United States Hydrographic Service, presided while Mr. Hall compressed into less than two hours address the scientific results of years of study. All present realized the weight and the unimpeachable authority of the modest scientist before them, and felt grateful for the opportunity of giving him their unqualified endorsement.

Thanks to the Stars and Stripes, "Empire" has indeed come Westward. But little did the scholar and writer, Berkely, over in moist England, realize the literal truth of his now immortal saying. The vanished empires of the far East were glorious in their day because of the water led on to their great valley basins. They are only names now, these ancient grandeurs of Assyria, Phoenicia, Egypt, Macedonia, etc., because the fruit of the land and fatness thereof, were first of all for the kings and the oracles. At last the people have come into their own. The irrigable West holds material, moral and intellectual possibilities in its fold of destiny that has not yet dawned on the consciousness of our nation at large. "I have seen landscapes" said Livingstone, after his first return from Africa, "over which it seemed as if an angel had brought them into existence through a smile." The possibilities of inherent harvests in our irrigable valleys seems indeed like a visit from invisible fairies dowering the land with beauty and abundance.

But stern work is before all who believe in the realization of the magnificent prospect. The very first duty at hand is to support the present national administration in its great and indispensable effort to protect the watershed of our rivers from further destruction. In Arizona that co-operation comes or must come in the substitution of other method of herding sheep on the range than which now prevails. Twenty odd years ago that wondrous interpreter of Mother Nature's secrets, John Muir, of California, called the sheep in the Sierra Nevada forests the "horned locusts of destruction." They are even more so in Arizona and Sonora. Witness the Santa Cruz valley. Substitute alfalfa meadows and all be well, more especially for the sheep owner.

O. C. ELLISON.

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